

## ABSTRACT

A kneading status evaluation method for a rubber composition containing at least a rubber and a filler comprises the steps of a complex modulus measurement step (1) in which a complex modulus  $E^*(a)$  at a given strain  $\epsilon_a$  and a complex modulus  $E^*(b)$  at a given strain  $\epsilon_b$  differing from the strain  $\epsilon_a$  of the rubber composition (I) are measured, a filler dispersion index calculation step (2) in which a filler dispersion index (N) of the rubber composition (I) is calculated with complex elastic moduli  $E^*(a)$  and  $E^*(b)$  obtained in the previous step (1) according to the equation shown below, and a comparison step (3) to compare a predetermined target filler dispersion index (R) with the filler dispersion index (N) calculated in the previous step (2), and/or a complex viscosity coefficient measurement step (5) to measure a complex viscosity coefficient  $\eta^*$  of the rubber composition (I) under at least two different temperatures, and a kneading status monitor index calculation step (6) to calculate a kneading status monitor index (M) of the rubber composition (I) according to the equation shown below on the basis of a temperature dependency of the complex viscosity coefficient  $\eta^*$  obtained at the previous step (5), and a comparison step (7) to compare a predetermined target kneading status monitor index (P) with the kneading status monitor index (M) calculated in the previous step (6);

$$\text{Filler dispersion index (N)} = |E^*(a)|/|E^*(b)|$$

$$|\eta^*(T)| = A \exp (-M/RT)$$

where  $\eta^*$ : complex viscosity coefficient, A: proportional constant, R: gas constant, and T: measuring temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{K}$ ).

A manufacturing method for a rubber composition is characterized by carrying out the evaluation methods described above.

Implementation of the evaluation methods described above makes it possible to evaluate objectively a kneading status of a rubber composition containing at least a rubber and a filler. Further, implementation of the manufacturing methods described above can provide a rubber composition having good filler dispersion and a stable kneading status.